

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

APR 21 2006

To:

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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	13.04.2006
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Applicant's or agent's file reference DB001104-001~	305051
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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No. PCTUS2005/003299	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.02.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.02.2004
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Applicant MCKESSON AUTOMATION SYSTEMS, INC.
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1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

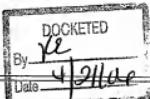
4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/B301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.



Name and mailing address of the international
preliminary examining authority:



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PENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference DB001104-001	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/US2005/003299	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.02.2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.02.2004
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC INV. G06F17/60 A61J7.00		
Applicant MCKESSON AUTOMATION SYSTEMS, INC.		
<p>1. This report is the International preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of sheets, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in Item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box. b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions). <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the International application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the International application 		
Date of submission of the demand 10.11.2005	Date of completion of this report 13.04.2006	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - P.O. Box Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Fax: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		
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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/003299

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements* of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-9 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

- The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
- This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	2-6,9
	No:	Claims	1,7,8
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-9

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-9
No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document:
D1: US-A-5 771 657 (LASHER ET AL) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30)
2. Although claims 1, 7 and 9 have been drafted as separate independent method claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought and/or in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness and as such do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.
3. Although the claims specify commonplace technical features, no technical problem which might require an inventive step to overcome can be established. The problems (see description Par. 2-4) which are apparently addressed do not appear to require a technical, but rather an administrative/organisational, i.e. business solution. The implementation of this solution may include the use of generic technical features, however these do not interact to solve any overall technical problem but merely serve their well known functions. Therefore the subject-matter of claims 1-9 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.
4. The document D1 discloses:
A method of discriminating between orders, comprising:
evaluating a queue of orders based on whether each prescription within the order can be filled in an automated manner, and
determining a set of workstations for each prescription based on said evaluating (see Col.3, lines 32-59).

Therefore the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

It should be noted that the method of claim 1 could be executed by a person. The automation of this method by a (computerised) system would be implemented without

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inventive skill (Article 33(3) PCT).

5. Dependent claims 2-6 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, the reasons being as follows:
The features of claims 2-6 relate to well known features in automated prescription filling systems (e.g. document D1). Therefore the subject-matter of claims 2-6 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT and/or does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.
6. The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject-matter of claims 7-9, which therefore are also considered not new (Article 33(2) PCT) and/or inventive (Article 33(3) PCT).